



WHITCHURCH

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL


ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., H.B., D.P.H.

for the year

1940



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The Whitchurch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

As for last year the Ministry of Health has decided that the Report for 1940 should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

Your obedient servant,

L.WILSON EVANS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications	Office Held.	Whole or Part time.
L.Wilson Evans	M.B.,B.S.,L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part
M.W.Sowden	M.I.M & Cy.E.	Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.	Whole

WHITCHURCH URBAN DISTRICT.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1940

Population.....6884

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births Legitimate	57	42	99
Illegitimate	5	2	7
	<u>62</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>106</u>

Birth Rate.....15.4

England and Wales.....14.6

	M.4	F.0	Total 4.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
Per 1,000 Births.....			38
England and Wales.....			55

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births: Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	0	3	3
	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

Rate per 1,000 population.....1.06

England and Wales.....0.55

Deaths:	M.	F.	Total
	59	56	115

Death Rate: Uncorrected.....16.7

 Corrected.....15.0

 England and Wales.....14.3

Deaths from Cancer: M.7 F.5 Total 12.

Deaths from Measles.....0

Deaths from Whooping Cough.....2

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.0

Maternal Deaths.....1

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

	No. of cases	No. admitted to hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14	1	
Measles	14	-	
Whooping Cough	10	-	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	3	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Para-typhoid B.	1	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-	3

There was no substantial outbreak of Infectious Disease.

The Scarlet Fever cases were scattered throughout the year, also were the Measles, as shown by the table. The Scarlet Fever was a mild form. The 3 cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever were treated in Monkmoor Isolation Hospital, one was fatal, dying within an hour of admission to the Hospital. Modern treatment has fortunately greatly reduced the fatality of this disease, but it must be given adequately in the early stages of the disease.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	-	2	2	2	-	-	1	2	1
Measles	-	3	2	-	3	3	1	-	2	-	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Educational work was done in the Welfare Centre by means of talks and the distribution of leaflets. No other propaganda was attempted. Very few parents availed themselves of the opportunity to have their children protected against Diphtheria as the figures show.

Children over 5 years of age	3
Children under 5 years of age	2
	5
Total	5

The material used was 3 doses of T.A.M.

In December the Council decided to make use of posters advocating the immunisation of children and also to distribute leaflets to all parents through the schools. The response has already been good and 1941 promises great progress. The method used will be Alum Precipitated Toxoid, 2 doses at four weekly intervals.

Tuberculosis.

	Pulmonary.		Deaths.		Non-Pulmonary.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Notifications	3	3	1	1	1	2	0	1

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Water Consumption. A daily increase of 8,805 gallons.

Housing Standard. No great difficulty has been obtained in having any required repairs to dwelling houses executed.

Meat: Centralised Slaughtering. Whitchurch is the killing centre for the district, and two slaughterhouses, one of which is now used solely for all casualty slaughter, have been taken over by the Ministry of Food. Several representations have been made to the Ministries of Food and Health by the Council with regard to certain improved arrangements to slaughtering at these slaughterhouses, where beasts for slaughter are brought in from the surrounding districts of Wem, Drayton, Ellesmere, as well as parts of Flintshire and Cheshire and have to be examined. The scheme is now working much more smoothly.

Although as stated by the Sanitary Inspector there is improvement in the working of the slaughtering scheme as a result of your

Council's representations, the application for assistance in the matter of meat inspection was not complied with.

There is little doubt that insufficient consideration was given to the question of meat inspection when the scheme was formulated.

There is probably three or four times as much meat to be inspected than before the centralised slaughtering started, but the inspector has not more time to give to inspection, rather less since the war has imposed other additional duties upon him, and so the position of the meat inspection is thoroughly unsatisfactory,

whether it results in the overworking of the inspector, insufficient inspection, or both. I have suggested that assistance might be given by meat inspectors in the districts supplied from Whitchurch who as a result of the closing down of slaughterhouses in their own districts have no meat inspection to do.

